

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5742

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NEW NETHERLANDS

AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG BARON DIEDERIC WOLTER

VAN LYNDEN

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE FULL BIOGRAPHIC REPORT BUT ARE DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO BE USEFUL TO AMB. HILLENBRAND AND OTHERS IN EMBASSY BONN WHO WILL HAVE OCCASION TO DEAL WITH AMB. VAN LYNDEN. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS ON OR ABOUT NOV 25.

2. CAREER. VAN LYNDEN GRADUATED FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN DEN HELDER IN 1937 WHEN HE WAS 20 YEARS OLD AND SERVED AS A NAVAL OFFICER UNTIL HIS SHIP WAS SUNK AND HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS IN 1940. HE SPENT MOST OF THE WAR YEARS AS A PRISONER, FINALLY ESCAPING TO ROMANIA. HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1949 AND HAS SERVED IN THE NETHERLANDS UN DELEGATION; VIENNA; TWICE IN LONDON, HIS SECOND TOUR RUNING 1964-1970 AS MINISTER-COUNSELOR; AND THREE TIMES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CULMINATING IN HIS SERVICE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS 1970 TO SEPTEMBER 1974. THE LATTER IS ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS OF ALL DUTCH CIVIL SERVANT POSITIONS AND VAN LYNDEN FILLED IT WITH GREAT COMPETENCE AND DISTINCTION. THE EMBASSY, PARRTICULARLY THE DCM, WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM ON MANY IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND

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POLITICAL-MILITARY ISSUES.

3. BASIC ORIENTATION. TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE WESTERN SYSTEM OF VALUES AND WAY OF LIFE AND TO THE DEFENSE OF THAT SYSTEM THROUGH A STRONG NATO, VAN LYNDEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIET UNION RUNS FROM ANTIPATHY TO PATRONIZING. HE FEELS LITTLE IN COMMON WITH THE SOVIETS BUT HAS A REALISTIC RESPECT FOR THEIR POWER AND POSITION IN THE WORLD AND BELIEVES THAT THE DUTCH SHOULD DO WHAT THEY CAN TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST CIVIL RELATIONS. VAN LYNDEN ACCOMPANIED FOMIN VAN DER STOEL ON HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION LAST APRIL AND RETURNED MORE DISABUSED THAN EVER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF ANY REAL RAPPORT WITH THE SOVIETS.

4. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US. VAN LYNDEN'S FEELINGS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, WHILE FRIENDLY AND CORRECT, ARE A FUNCTION OF HIS BASIC- PRO-EUROPEAN ORIENTATION. WHEN US AND EUROPEAN INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES CONVERGE, HE CAN APPEAR TO BE AS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AS ANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN A STRONGLY PRO-US FONOFF. WHEN, ON THE OTHERHAND FRICTIONS DEVELOP AS DURING THE PROTRACTED AND EVENTUALLY UNSUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS TO PRODUCE A JOINT US-EC DECLARATION LAST YEAR, VAN LYNDEN'S UNDERLYING RESERVE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES BECOMES MORE APPARENT. IT IS NOT THAT VAN LYNDEN SHARES THE GAULLISTS' RESENTMENT OF LE DEFI AMERICAIN; RATHER HE IS INTELLECTUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY COMMITTED TO A STRONG UNIFIED EUROPE AS OFFERING THE BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF HIS COUNTRY. WHEN US POLICIES SEEM TO RUN ATHWART EUROPEAN UNITY, VAN LYNDEN FEELS DISCOMFITTED AND AT TIMES IT SHOWS. (SEE THE HAGUE 531 OF JAN 31, 1974 FOR A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HIS VIEWS TOWARD NATO AND EUROPE).

5. THE DEVELOPING WORLD. WITH HIS TITLED BACKGROUN AND PATRICIAN MANNER, VAN LYNDEN DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DEEP PHILOSOPHIC INTEREST IN THE PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HIS SUPPORT FOR DUTCH POLICY IN THIS AREA IS BASED ON CALCULATED DUTCH SELF-INTEREST. HE QUESTIONS WHETHER SOME OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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ARE CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVELY ABSORBING PRESENT LEVELS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THAT THE NETHERLANDS OWES ITS PRESENT STANDING AND INFLUENCE IN THIRD WORLD AFFAIRS IN LARGE PART TO ITS GENEROUS AID CUM TRADE POLICIES.

6. DEN UYL GOVERNMENT. TO THE EXTENT THAT VAN LYNDEN HAS ANY POLITICS--HE HAS NEVER DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT

WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER--HE WOULD CERTAINLY STAND WELL TO THE RIGHT OF THE PRESENT LEFT-OF-CENTER GOVERNMENT. HE HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT'S VOCATION TO MORALIZE AND BEAR WITNESS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE FELT STRONGLY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE GON HURT ITSELF UNNECESSARILY BY OPENLY FOLLOWING A PRO-ISRAELI POLICY AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR LAST YEAR. HE WAS DOUBLY UNHAPPY BECAUSE THE NETHERLANDS WAS SINGLED OUT IN EUROPE FOR THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT AND FOR A GOOD PART OF THE TIME WAS "ODD MAN OUT" WITH THE MAJORITY OF ITS EC PARTNERS. CONVERSELY, VAN LYNDEN WAS RELIEVED AND GRATIFIED WHEN HIS ADVICE WAS FINALLY FOLLOWED, RESULTING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER PUBLICLY RECOGNIZING A YEAR AGO THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIANS REQUIRED A POLITICAL, NOT JUST A HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION.

7. PERSONAL DATA. TALL, LEAN, WELL-DRESSED AND IMMACULATELY GROOMED, VAN LYNDEN INVARIABLY LOOKS THE PART OF THE CLASSIC EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT. ALTHOUGH HE TENDS TO BE FORMAL AND UNBENDING, HE CAN BE QUITE FRIENDLY AND RELAXED WHEN THE ICE IS BROKEN. DESPITE HIS TOUGH-MINDEDNESS AND HIS SOMEWHAT HAUGHTY MANNER HE SOMETIMES SURPRISES BY THE AMOUNT OF HIS CONTROLLED WARMTH. HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND ASTUTE, VAN LYNDEN IS A TRUE PROFESSIONAL WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE IN BELONGING TO THE DIPLOMATIC CAREER. HE HAS A REMARKABLE CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK AND SUSTAINED WORK AND FREQUENT TRAVEL. IT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIM TO HAVE OVERCOME THE HANDICAP OF HAVING ONLY ONE KIDNEY FOLLOWING A SERIOUS ILLNESS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. VAN LYNDEN APPEARED TO HAVE THE ESTEEM AND SUPPORT OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND SUBORDINATES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY; AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL HE GOT ALONG REASONABLY WELL WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, DESPITE OCCASIONAL POLICY

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DIFFERENCES, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF VAN LYNDEN'S GREAT CAPACITY FOR LOYALTY TO HIS "POLITICAL MASTERS"--AS WELL AS VAN DER STOEL'S OWN PATIENCE AND FOREBEARANCE.

8. FAMILY. VAN LYNDEN HAS BEEN MARRIED MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE TO THE FORMER ANNE HEATHCOTE, A PETITE, ATTRACTIVE, AND VIVACIOUS ENGLISH WOMAN, WHO IS QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS AND ALWAYS GOOD COMPANY. THEY HAVE THREE GROWN CHILDREN AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN. ONE OF THE TWO SONS, AN ARCHTECT, IS HELPING HIS FATHER REDECORATE THE RESIDENCE IN BONN.

9. CONCLUSION. ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT AMONG THE DOMINANT INFLUENCES IN VAN LYNDEN'S LIFE HAVE BEEN HIS LONG AND APPARENTLY HAPPY MARRIAGE; HIS TWO TOURS OF DUTY AT THE NETHERLANDS

EMBASSY IN LONDON TOTALLING 10 YEARS; AND HIS FORMAL TRAINING AND SEVERAL YEARS OF SERVICE AS A ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVAL OFFICER. SUAVE, POSIED, WITH A TOUCH OF BOTH CYNICISM AND ARROGANCE, VAN LYNDEN IS AT HIS BEST IN TRADITIONAL SURROUNDINGS. WHILE EMBASSY LONDON WAS PROBABLY HIS FIRST CHOICE, HE APPEARS TO GET ALONG WELL WITH THE GERMANS, AND IN ANY CASE CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL GRATIFIED AT HIS NOMINATION TO BONN, CERTAINLY ONE OF THE TOP 4 OR 5 POSTS IN THE DUTCH FOREIGN SERVICE. ALREADY VIRTUALLY BILINGUAL IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH, VAN LYNDEN DISENGAGED FROM HIS FORMER POSITION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST SEPTEMBER AND HAS SPENT SEVERAL OF THE INTERVENING WEEKS FOLLOWING AN INTENSIVE REFERESHER COURSE IN GERMAN. HE ALREADY KNOWS BONN, OF COURSE, FROM MANY PREVIOUS VISITS AND IT SHOULD NOT TAKE HIM LONG TO FEEL AT HOME AND TO TAKE FIRM CHARGE OF HIS FIRST AMBASSADORIAL POST. GOULD

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